

**Table 24. Characteristics of doctoral scientists and engineers on postdoc, by selected field of doctorate: 1997**

April 2002

Demographic characteristic	Field of doctorate		
	All fields	Biological and agricultural sciences	Other fields
Total postdocs (number).....	25,600	13,900	11,800
		Percent	
Years since doctorate			
5 years or less.....	85	86	83
6-10 years.....	12	12	12
11-15 years.....	S	S	S
More than 15 years.....	S	S	S
Sex			
Male.....	65	59	71
Female.....	35	41	29
Race/ethnicity <sup>1</sup>			
White.....	66	64	69
Black.....	S	S	S
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	28	31	24
American Indian/Alaskan Native.....	S	S	S
Hispanic.....	S	S	S
Age			
34 or younger.....	58	59	58
35-44.....	32	36	28
45 or older.....	9	S	14
Citizenship status			
U.S. citizen.....	70	69	71
Non-U.S. citizen.....	30	31	29
Employment sector			
Educational institution.....	76	78	73
Business/industry.....	12	11	13
Other.....	12	11	13
Employment benefits			
Health benefits available.....	90	92	88
Pension benefits available.....	49	44	54

<sup>1</sup> Race/ethnicity shown for all doctorate recipients, including temporary residents.

**KEY:** S = Suppressed due to too few cases (fewer than 1,000 weighted cases).

**NOTES:** Postdoc is a temporary position awarded in academe, industry or government primarily for gaining additional education and training in research.

Numbers are rounded to nearest hundred. Percents are rounded to the whole number. Details may not add to totals because of rounding.

Details of employment benefits does not add to total because multiple answers were allowed. Survey of Doctorate Recipients includes

persons who had earned a research doctorate from an U.S. institution and resided in U.S. as of April 1997.

**SOURCE:** National Science Foundation/Division of Science Resources Statistics, 1997 Survey of Doctorate Recipients